



PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
10 March 2008
13 March 2008 Update

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BIG GUNS RETURN TO LEX

Corpus Christi, TX – USS LEXINGTON Museum President, Tony LaMantia, has announced a *BIG* addition to the Museum. On Thursday, March 13th, Lexington officials anticipate the arrival of two enormous twin 5” /38 gun mounts. These dual-purpose gun mounts are of the type that were on board Lexington during WWII. The mounts weigh in excess of 60 tons each and were referred to as dual purpose because they fired 5” shells that were capable of being used against surface targets as well as enemy aircraft. LaMantia said, “These guns, which had the ability to fire a 55 pound projectile over nine miles, are sure to wow our visitors and will make an already great visitor experience an even better one.”

The gun mounts were salvaged from the USS DES MOINES, a heavy cruiser commissioned in 1948 and recently scrapped in Brownsville. With the assistance of Esco Marine, the guns will be barged from the Port of Brownsville to Corpus Christi and loaded aboard with a huge floating crane provided by Orion Construction **beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning, March 14th**. According to Rocco Montesano, Executive Director of the USS Lexington Museum, “The addition of these guns will allow us to continue to tell the WWII story to our thousands of visitors. Lexington’s 5”guns were an integral part of the ship’s defense and were responsible for shooting down many attacking Japanese aircraft.”

One of Lexington’s current volunteers, Merrill Taylor, actually manned the 5” gun mounts during the war and was awarded a commendation for “meritorious performance of duty while serving as a crew member of a heavy anti-aircraft twin mount.” He and his crew shot down three enemy torpedo bombers in one day, undoubtedly saving the lives of many Lexington crewmembers.

What: Twin 5”/38 Gun Mounts
When: 9:00 a.m., Thursday, March 13, 2008 NOW EXPECTED AT 7:00 P.M.
Where: 2914 North Shoreline, Corpus Christi, Texas 78402

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